USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Animal Care

July 7, 2015

Carole Baskin
carole.baskin@bigcatrescue.org

Dear Complainant:

Thank you for your correspondence dated 10 June 2015 concerning Sterns Zoological Rescue & Rehabilitation. Your concern has been issued number AC15-393. **If you wish to know the results of our findings, you must send a request, in writing, to our Freedom of Information Act office. Depending on the circumstances of the situation, please allow us enough time (30 to 60 days) to thoroughly investigate your concerns.**

FOIA requests can be submitted three ways--
1. **Email: foia.officer@aphis.usda.gov**
2. **Fax: 301-734-5941**
3. **US Mail: USDA, APHIS, FOIA**
   4700 River Road, Unit 50
   Riverdale, MD 20723

Animal Care is the division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that is responsible for the enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act. The Act provides minimum standards for the humane care and use of animals at USDA licensed or registered facilities.

Animal Care inspectors conduct routine unannounced inspections at all USDA licensed and registered facilities to ensure that they are meeting or exceeding these minimum standards. Our inspectors also conduct searches for unlicensed facilities conducting regulated activities. We perform inspections and searches when necessary in response to valid concerns and complaints received from the public to ensure the well-being of the animals and compliance with the law. If violations are found, enforcement action appropriate for the circumstances will be initiated.

Please be assured that we will look into your concerns and take appropriate action if necessary.

Thank you for your interest in the welfare of these animals.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Goldentyer, DVM
Director, Animal Welfare Operations
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care